T. V. Stations

2121. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T.V. Stations (main stations and relay stations) functioning in the country at present;

(b) the percentage of the area of the country covered by them; and

(c) by when the rest of the country is likely to be provided with T.V. viewing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The number of TV transmitters and programme production centres at present functioning in the country is 207 and 18 respectively.

(b) The existing TV network is estimated to provide TV service to about 47 per cent of the area of the country.

(c) TV Service in the country is being expanded in a phased manner. On implementation of the schemes included in the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan, TV network is expected to serve about 67.2 per cent area and about 82.8 per cent population of the country. Extension of T.V. service to the remaining uncovered parts of the country would depend upon availability of resources for this purpose in future plans of TV expansion.

Recovery of Artillery Shell and Grenades in Delhi

2122. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the MID-DAY, New Delhi dated 1st July, 1987 regarding recovery of high intensity live artillery shell from a nullah in Shakurpur in West Delhi and hand grenades from the Okhla Railway Station recently, bearing the markings of the Indian Army Ordinance;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry to identify the army depots from where such explosive material is being pilfered; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof, stating the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIV RAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). No such ammunition is reported to have been lost from any Army Unit, Formations or Ordnance installations in the recent past.

Thefts from custom Lounges

2123. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been frequent thefts of packages from Custom lounges at various Airports;

(b) if so, the total amount of losses and amount paid to owner of the packages as compensations during the last five years, year-wise and airportwise;

(c) whether any inquiry had been conducted to detect the custom officials, who were involved in these thefts; and

(d) if so, what action has so far been taken against these officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (d) It is not true that there have been frequent thefts of packages from Custom lounges at various airports. Only three cases have been reported during the last five years of baggage items found missing